UN

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1996 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TRANSMITTING A LETTER FROM H.E. RAUF R. DENKTAŞ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS, CONCERNING THE REQUEST OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, addressed to you concerning the request for the admission of "the Republic of Cyprus" as full member of the Conference on Disarmament.

I should be grateful if this letter together with its annex could be distributed among all member delegations of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Tugay Uluçevik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.96-64421

TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

(Lefkoşa via Mersin-10, Turkey)

September 23, 1996

Your Excellency,

It has come to my attention that the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, which purports to be the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" has submitted a request to become a full member of the Conference on Disarmament on September 2, 1996. In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind attention the following:

The Republic of Cyprus was founded in 1960 in accordance with the international Cyprus treaties by the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples when the British Government relinquished the sovereignty of Cyprus to the partnership Republic composed of the aforesaid politically equal partners, "acting conjointly and in partnership". The legitimacy of the 1960 Republic lay in the joint presence and effective participation of both sides in all the organs of the state. None of the parties had the right to rule the other, nor could any of them assume the right to be the government of the whole island in the absence of the other in all the organs of the state and its Government. Indeed, the raison d'être of the founding of this partnership Republic was that one Community would not dominate the other. The relationship of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot partners was not that of a majority and minority, but, as underlined by the UN Secretary-General in his report of March 8, 1990 to the Security Council, of political equality of the two component units or communities.

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H.E. Mr. Ludwik Dembinski
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Poland
President of the Conference on Disarmament
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This partnership "Republic of Cyprus" established by the 1960 Agreements was destroyed by the Greek Cypriot partner's armed onslaught on the Turkish Cypriot partner in December 1963 when all Turkish Cypriot elements in all the state organs were forcefully ejected. The Turkish Cypriot partner did not accept this attempted take-over of the bi-national partnership state by the Greek Cypriot side and, through its national resistance, prevented the Greek Cypriot side from extending its authority over the Turkish Cypriot partner. In consequence, since December 1963 there has not been a joint administration in the island. Each side has ruled itself while the Greek Cypriot side has continued with the false pretence that it is "the legitimate Government of Cyprus".

Ever since, the Greek Cypriot side has been trying, without success, through a variety of ways to extend its authority over the whole island. One of the methods resorted to is, appearance at all international organs as "the representative of Cyprus" when they are only the representative of the Greek Cypriot side.

The Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, therefore, has no legal, or moral right to claim to represent anyone except the Greek Cypriot people, and the said administration, under the pretentious and self-assumed title of the "Government of Cyprus" has no legal or moral right nor the jurisdiction to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people, whose sole, legitimate representatives are those elected under and by virtue of the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In view of the above, anything said or done by the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, in its purported capacity as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", will be null and void, and will not, in any way, be binding on the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Rauf R. Denktaş
President